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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 24 JULY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BANGLADESH TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to bring to the attention of the Security Council the urgent situation now prevailing in Bihac. The Bihac pocket has been under continuous and intensified attack by local Serb/Abdic forces during the last few days and subject to heavy shelling. The Serb offensive has now been launched from three sides and there are reports that the villages of Trazac and Sturlic have been taken. Bangladesh is seriously concerned about the situation in Bihac, where more than 1,200 Bangladeshi soldiers are deployed as part of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Apart from standing resolutions of the Security Council, particularly 824 (1993) of 6 May 1993, 836 (1993) of 4 June 1993 and 959 (1994) of 19 November 1994, which clearly laid down the UNPROFOR mandate to protect the safe areas and to authorize the use of air power, the recent London Conference on Bosnia on 21 July 1995 also decided to take all necessary measures, including air strikes, to ensure the safety of enclaves in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We would, therefore, urge that the Security Council take forthright action for immediate deployment of the Rapid Reaction Force to all enclaves at present under attack, including Bihac, as well as to launch air strikes to deter Serb aggression against these United Nations-designated safe areas. Bangladesh clearly believes that what is required now is decisive action through effective measures in support of enforcing UNPROFOR's mandate.

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Reaz RAHMAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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